IITs, it would not be correct to position these Institutions straightaway alongside the IITs.

There is a proposal with the Government to set up a new IIM in the North Eastern Region (NER).

There is no proposal for setting up a new Institute by way of IIT or IIM in Orissa.

Confusion in seat sharing

1477. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether confusion and uncertainty prevails in the matter of seat sharing between Government and College Managements in professional courses; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government to clear the confusion and safeguard interest of the student community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government have no such information. Admissions to professional courses are regulated by the respective State Governments or Universities as the case may be. The Central Government has prepared a draft Bill as requested by several State Governments, for the regulation of admissions and the fixation of fee in private professional educational Institutions. The draft has been circulated to all the State Governments, concerned Ministries and other stakeholders to elicit their views.

Facilities to visually handicapped students

1478. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether visually handicapped students pursuing graduate and post-graduate courses are provided with recorded course materials and are allowed to take assistance of writers in the examinations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;